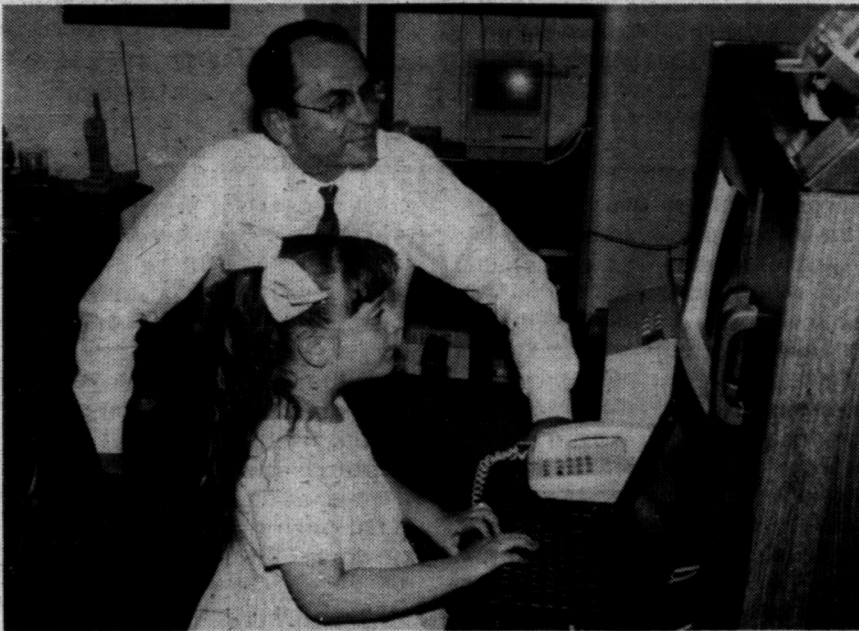


The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Published Since 1877



KANSAS CITY, MO. — Six-year-old Hannah Whitehead finds SBCNet easy to use and fun, so much so that she postpones lunch to get "on the net" right after kindergarten. Her father Mike watches as Hannah responds to an on-line friend. (BP photo by Brian Anderson)

SBCNet membership hits 5,000

NASHVILLE (BP) — The number of people joining SBCNet, the Southern Baptist data communications network, has doubled since August 1994 with the 5,000th subscriber going on-line June 6.

The milestone achievement came almost on the heels of the last significant increase. Membership stood at 4,000 on March 10, up more than 1,000 users from Nov. 9, 1994.

Total membership stood at 2,500 in August 1994, according to David Haywood, coordinator of the network. He projected membership will reach 10,000 by summer 1996.

The number of on-line hours per week within SBCNet has increased from 116 to as high as 1,913 since August 1993, when

the flat monthly rate for SBCNet charges was instituted. Individuals accessing the network weekly since that time increased from 393 to as high as 2,120.

SBCNet is coordinated by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Its services include supplemental Sunday School teaching helps; Baptist Press; CompassionNet worldwide electronic prayer network; bulletin boards for state conventions; and a variety of other services.

The flat-rate cost of SBCNet, \$7.95 monthly, and CompuServe basic services, \$9.95 monthly, provides users the ability to read and download files and participate in on-line conferences, without per-minute charges. To order an SBCNet kit or to obtain additional information, call (800) 325-7749.

Colorado football coach answers his own Promise Keepers altar call

By Terry Mattingly

WASHINGTON (BP) — As the Promise Keepers band soared into the anthem "Godly Men," Bill McCartney stood and lifted his hands high in praise to God. "Lord, help us turn from sin and begin again, as godly men," sang the former University of Colorado football coach, along with 52,000 men who filled RFK Stadium in Washington on May 27. "Though we know we sometimes stumble, may the promise that we keep be to honor you with all our hearts and to worship at your feet."

Spotting the coach perched near the press box, many men rose, raised their hands, and sang with new vigor. The warm-ups were over and another two-day Promise Keepers marathon had begun. It would be 12 more hours of preaching, cheering, singing, and praying before McCartney took to the pulpit to urge them to repent, be faithful to their wives, serve their families, support their brothers, and stop worshipping their careers.

But this sermon had a twist. Five years after his first vision of men packing stadiums, McCartney explained how this message finally cut into his heart and left him in the poignant position of needing to heed his own altar call.

The true value of a man's life, he said, can be seen in his wife's face. Last year, this test left McCartney shattered.

"She was in so much pain.... I became convicted that I was not doing everything I could to bring my wife to splendor in Jesus

Christ," he explained during a break in the rally, using one of his typically Scripture-soaked metaphors. "Once I faced that the issue became: Is continuing in coaching the best way to do that?... For 32 years we had chased Bill McCartney's dreams, not Lyndi's dreams. She was married to a man who was so focused, so driven, so possessed.... It was like God opened my eyes."

speakers at the Washington rally were Hispanic or black — like Wellington Boone.

One punch after the other, speaker Boone hit his listeners with jabs of scripture, followed by powerful parables torn from modern life.

His sermon was about the sin of racism and Boone wasn't going to let the 52,000 men at the rally just sit there. As a master of the call-and-response oratory beloved in black churches, he wanted to hear shouts of "praise God," "keep preaching," and "amen!" The crowd caught on quick.

The Bible insists that all people are created in God's image, thundered Boone, whose usual pulpit is at Manna Christian Fellowship in Richmond, Va. Folks who have trouble getting along on earth will have even more trouble facing God and each other in heaven, he said.

"Listen to me," said Boone. "What race is love? What culture is meekness? What gender is mercy? What socio-economic level is loving-kindness?"

Some would say this was a risky sermon in a stadium packed, in large part, with white, male, evangelical Protestants.

The group expects to draw 700,000 to 13 rallies this summer and its leaders are studying 36 possible sites for 1996.

Mattingly writes a weekly column for the Scripps Howard News Service and teaches communications at Milligan College in Tennessee.



Adding insult to injury, one of football's fiercest competitors had added another obsession to his life — Promise Keepers. This non-denominational movement for men had grown from 4,200 in 1991 to 278,000 in seven 1994 gatherings. Participation doubled every six months during four often-chaotic years.

Critics claim Promise Keepers is booming because its message appeals to the so-called angry white males and, perhaps, a few others who yearn for the past. Critics note some Promise Keepers leaders have ties to the Religious Right.

It's true that parking lots outside Promise Keepers rallies contain rows of cars, vans, and even church buses sporting bumper stickers opposing abortion and homosexual rights, or backing conservative politicians.

But it's also true that half of the

Million milestone

First Church of Pewaukee, Wis., well off the beaten path for Southern Baptists, has earned a place on the history map of the country's largest Protestant denomination. Pastor Jeff McBeth didn't know his recent order to the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) for 12 copies of **Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God** put the popular study series over the 1 million mark in total sales. "My wife Jane had heard quite a bit about it and she told me, 'Honey, we're the only church in the nation who hasn't done this study,'" McBeth said. The pair also attended a pastors and wives retreat where Henry Blackaby, co-author of the series and director of the Home Mission Board's office of spiritual awakening, was the keynote speaker. McBeth said he was so impressed with Blackaby that he placed the fateful order immediately upon returning home. Roy Edgemon, director of discipleship and family development at BSSB, was pleased with the news. "I'm grateful to the Lord for what he is doing with **Experiencing God** all over the world," he said.

Reaching Islamic followers

Southern Baptists must learn to "do church" better than the Nation of Islam "does cult," according to the Home Mission Board's (HMB) associate director of black church extension. "(Nation of Islam) is one of the fastest-growing cults in the African-American community because it seems to meet a need that the young African-American male is displaying," said Robert Wilson. Jerry Buckner, pastor of Tiberian Christian Fellowship in San Francisco, explained the group's appeal for unity, self-esteem, and economic opportunity attracts many black men, in contrast to the matriarchal nature of many black Baptist churches. Nation of Islam followers are "slaves to a black, brain-washing machine. The driving fuel behind all this was to fight white racism with black racism," Buckner said. Counterattacking the Nation of Islam, however, won't be effective, Wilson warned. "The (Christian) church for thousands of years has won adherents by being the church. Many of us are trying to counteract... black Muslims instead of saying, 'What we've got is much better.'"

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Sensing an opportunity to fight crime and Satan at the same time by getting to know local residents, members of Forrest Avenue Church, Biloxi, organize the first church-sponsored Neighborhood Watch program in the state of Mississippi.

20 years ago

The Mississippi State Capitol's liberty bell, on loan from Governor Bill Waller, is sounded at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Miami Beach by John Lee Taylor, pastor of First Church, Grenada.

50 years ago

Mississippi Baptists receive a cable from Baptist leaders in Moscow thanking them for their part in the Southern Baptist Convention's campaign to ship 175,000 kits to Russians displaced and starving because of the war with Germany.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Southern Baptists convene in Atlanta

Some 25,000 Southern Baptists are expected at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. The highlight should be the Sesquicentennial Celebration, which actually started May 8-10 of this year in Augusta. This will be portrayed at the convention, June 20-22.

Great preaching and the finest in Christian music will be heard throughout the preceding conferences as well as during the convention. Jim Henry, Orlando pastor, will likely be elected as SBC president for a second year without any major opposition.

The main business item will probably be the report of the Program and Structure Study Committee (PSSC) — popularly known as the Brister report. Drums have been beating since February for this to be accepted without amendments. Many SBC members agree that some changes are needed but still question the wisdom of this report. The WMU, Brotherhood, Radio-Television Commission, Historical Commission, and now the Home Mission Board, have raised some serious questions. Likely, it will be accepted though some changes could be made prior to the final vote in 1996.

The convention will also be offered an opportunity to "repent of racism" and express apologies for the slavery issue. The Christian Life Commission hosted a "Racial Reconciliation Consultation" in May and probably the motion or resolution will come from this group.

Missions and missionaries will

add a strong flavor to the convention. The Home Mission Board will be dedicating a new \$20 million building (the old building was sold for \$14.5 million) and will be busy drawing up new signs and logos for the North American Mission Board. This will be their new name if the Brister report is accepted.

Growing signs of world-wide revival will highlight the report of the Foreign Mission Board. An indication of this was seen in the recent mission conference in Seoul, Korea, and the determination of third world believers to

evangelize their own people. Also, the growing spirit of volunteerism by lay people for hands-on mission experience has resulted in stronger partnerships between state conventions and other nations.

Every agency that can afford it will be hosting a breakfast or luncheon. Alumni meetings of colleges and seminaries, plus dozens of other meetings, will go from breakfast to bedtime. George Beverly Shea and Billy Graham will have the final words on Thursday morning and the gavel will fall for the final time near high noon.

THE FRAGMENTS

Short circuited

It's summer time again and folks like to be comfortable. Casual dress is casually becoming more casual. One church in a distant state proudly invites people to attend in "your housecoat, shorts, and golf shoes." Color me "old fashioned" but I still believe people should dress up rather than dress down to attend public worship.

There are people who believe your clothing goes a long way in determining your mindset, your

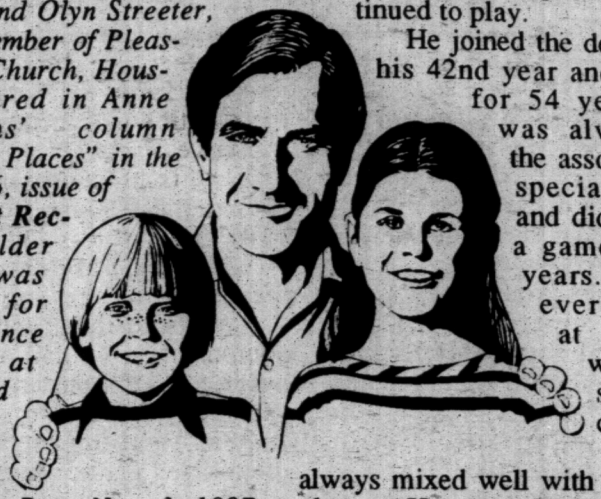
confidence, and your assurance. Your clothing does make a statement. Shorts are not considered "appropriate attire" for public worship.

Jesus called the place of worship "a house of prayer" and we should approach it in our best frame of mind and in proper clothing. Come on, Mom and Dad, see that the girls and boys are in proper dress. Don't embarrass the church staff and others by wearing shorts to the house of God. — GH



Father's Day, June 18 — A tribute to fathers who "stay on the field"

Editor's Note: The following tribute to a father was presented by Gordon Streeter as a eulogy at the funeral of his grandfather, John Edmond Olyn Streeter, longtime member of Pleasant Ridge Church, Houston. Featured in Anne McWilliams' column "Faces and Places" in the Oct. 9, 1986, issue of *The Baptist Record*, the elder Streeter was renowned for his attendance record at church and at Chickasaw Association annual meetings. Born Nov. 3, 1897, Streeter died on Jan. 3, 1994.



80 years. He played well beyond normal retirement — when others quit because it was too hard, he adjusted his game plan and continued to play.

He joined the deacons in his 42nd year and played for 54 years. He was always on the association's specialty team and didn't miss a game for 70 years. He was ever-present at player work-shops and clinics.

J.O. always mixed well with the other players. He never looked at new players as rookies but saw their potential as future stars.

On and off the field he was known as "Josh" for his pleasant and cheerful ways; "Uncle" as an endearing person who always gave a boost up; "Cousin" as a prized relative; "Papaw" as one to look up to, one who knew and understood; and as J.O., a fellow teammate, amiable and reliable.

J.O. always supported his home team without the desire to move to larger organizations.

As his eyesight dimmed and his hearing faded he continued to play the game, still supported the coach in holding the team together, and recruited new players; never allowed himself to be placed on the disabled list; always playing the game.

And now, J.O. — "Josh." "Papaw" — has retired... first on the court, first on the field, last to the showers.

They retired J.O. Streeter's jersey today. Hung it high in the annals of Christian history. Oh, it wasn't because of his spectacular feats nor the points he made. If he had been a ball player, he would have played a supporting role... in baseball, a short stop or an outfielder; in football, a tackle, playing both offense and defense; in basketball, a guard.

He wasn't flamboyant enough to play on the all-pro team, but he was first on the court, first on the field.... After everyone else was gone home, he'd still be shooting hoops, shagging flies, running laps.

He didn't count his number of hits or points scored. He was known more for his assists and for protecting the quarterback.

J.O. joined Christ's team at the age of 16 and played the game for

YOUR GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING the SBC ANNUAL MEETING

(ALL POLITICS ASIDE)

by JOE MCKEEVER



"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE A MOTION OF ANY KIND AND NOT GET A SECOND."



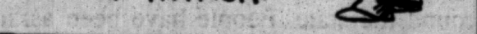
"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO HEAR SOMETHING THAT BLESSES YOU — AND SOMETHING TO OFFEND YOU!"



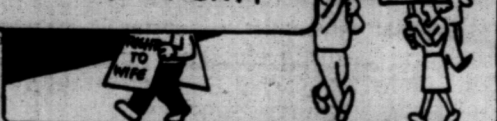
"IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTEND THE SBC WITHOUT RUNNING INTO AT LEAST ONE OLD FRIEND."



"IT'S POSSIBLE TO ATTEND EVERY MEETING THAT WEEK AND LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT — BUT NOT WITH YOUR SANITY INTACT!"



"IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THE GROUPS DEMONSTRATING IN FRONT OF THE CONVENTION HALL WILL MAKE YOU A TAD ANGRY."



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Unique ministry delivers transplant patients to new life

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Floyd Higginbotham isn't a pilot, flies only infrequently, and isn't a real aviation buff. So how did he get into the business of providing free air transportation to people who need organ transplants?

"Seems like the Lord dropped me into this," said the pastor of Pleasant Hill Church in Lincoln County.

What began as a one-time effort three years ago to arrange an airplane flight for a church member who needed a transplant has evolved into Life Line Aviation (LLA), Inc., a Brookhaven-based ministry dedicated to flying patients free of charge to medical centers around the country for various transplant procedures.

LLA is apparently the only incorporated service of its kind in the southeastern United States. Higginbotham serves as the organization's transportation coordinator.

LLA has so far flown six patients, and five more people are awaiting transportation as soon as their transplant centers contact them, Higginbotham said.

The waiting list ranges from a nine-month-old Mississippi child who needs a liver transplant in Omaha, Neb., to a 51-year old man waiting on a call from Birmingham, Ala., that his weakening heart will be replaced.

Higginbotham's group has flown patients as far as Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas to meet the window of time required for a particular transplant.

"Depending upon the organ being transplanted, this window is usually no more than seven to eight hours and as little as two and a half hours," he explained.

The use of aircraft is donated by owners, and pilots also donate their time, Higginbotham said, leaving LLA to pay per-hour costs of operation that include fuel and insurance.

LLA is presently utilizing a four-place Cessna, but the aircraft's usefulness is limited by lack of radar and de-icing equipment, he pointed out.

"We need radar and de-icing equipment so we can expand the weather conditions in which we can fly. We are also seeking to acquire a government surplus or drug-seized plane," Higginbotham added.

"Many corporations make their aircraft available for this type of transportation, but their aircraft may be on the other side of the country when it is needed. LLA is a dedicated service with backup planes in Monticello, McComb, and Brookhaven; this is all we do," he said.

James O. Lewis of Brookhaven serves as LLA's president

and primary pilot. Lewis's son-in-law, Daryl Oster of Copiah County, also flies for LLA. Both are aviation instructors.

LLA is chartered in the state of Mississippi as a non-profit corporation, Higginbotham said, and donations are tax deductible.

"We operate strictly on donations. Under no circumstances will charges or fees be assessed to the persons receiving our service. All costs will be paid by contributions

and/or interest on deposits," he pointed out.

Higginbotham would also like to hear from pilots interested in helping LLA fulfill its mission, and he encourages transplant prospects to contact LLA as soon as possible.

Paul Harrell, director of the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, worked with Higginbotham as he developed LLA.

"The Brotherhood Department and the Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship affirm this ministry and will serve in a referral role for LLA. We see this as an expansion of the ministry of the medical-dental fellowship," Harrell said.

For more information on Life Line Aviation, contact Higginbotham at P.O. Box 621, Brookhaven, MS 39601. Telephone: (601) 734-2603.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Published Since 1877

Former Stewardship director decries restructure proposal

Editor's Note: A.R. Fagan served as president of the Stewardship Commission from 1974-94. He recently expressed his reservations about the recommendations of the Program and Structure Study Committee (PSSC), to be voted on by the Southern Baptist Convention at its annual meeting in Atlanta on June 20-22. Because of his letter's timely commentary, *The Baptist Record* felt it important to print his remarks.

In 1993, convention President Ed Young appointed a widely diverse committee to study Southern Baptist Convention organizational matters. The subcommittee charged with studying Cooperative Program promotion had before it a motion to recommend the transfer to this responsibility from the Stewardship Commission to the Executive Committee. The

motion lost by a 9 to 3 vote.

Also in 1993, Fagan said, the Executive Committee sponsored six regional meetings to study concerns with Cooperative Program promotion.

"In all six meetings, the number one hurdle was identified as trust," he wrote. "The number one deterrent was identified by all six as being the Executive Committee. The two factors from which this derived were the stated objective of the Executive Committee to control the SBC agencies through the budgeting process and the fact that the Executive Committee's Cooperative Program allocation has grown almost four times the pace of the SBC Cooperative Program gifts over the past 20 years."

In addition, according to Fagan, the Executive Committee "having no experience in Foundation work and with the lack of

trust expressed across the SBC about the Executive Committee, how can there be any reasonable explanation in recommending the transfer of the Southern Baptist Foundation to the Executive Committee? The very lifeblood of any foundation is trust."

Fagan also stated: "This (Program and Structure Study) committee was selected by the Executive Committee. Its recommendations meet with the stated objective of control made by the Executive Committee officers in the 1993 regional meetings held in Dallas."

He also raised two serious questions regarding the Executive Committee's confidential deliberations of the PSSC's report:

"(1) How did the Executive Committee staff know about (the deliberations) far enough in advance to have the entire report printed in *SBC Life* for distribution when the recommendations were presented? and

"(2) If confidential within the Committee, does that mean the agencies being assigned the responsibilities of discontinued agencies were not consulted?"

It may very well be that some of the reorganization the PSSC recommends is needed, Fagan wrote.

"God's way is to use as many people as possible to do his work, not to concentrate control in the hands of a few," he said. "Baptist belief in the priesthood of the believer means each of us has a privilege of service. That one agency should exert so much control by promoting, receiving, and recommending disbursement of funds seems to be a contradiction to this basic tenet."

Finally, Fagan said he supports Larry Lewis' call for a delay in voting on the recommendations of the PSSC until all the ramifications of the report can be thoroughly studied.

Fagan, retired, now lives in Springfield, Tenn.

Graham falls ill in Toronto

TORONTO (BP) — Billy Graham remained in Toronto the week of June 12 after becoming ill during a June 6 speaking engagement at the outset of his Mission Ontario crusade in Toronto's SkyDome.

Graham, 76, who is scheduled to address the Southern Baptist Convention's closing session June 22 in Atlanta, was released from Toronto East General Hospital June 9 but re-entered the hospital June 13 for further tests, according to a news release issued by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Graham had experienced flu-like

conditions Monday night, June 5, but kept a Tuesday luncheon engagement with two Toronto civic groups, the Empire and Canadian clubs. He cut short his address when he began to feel faint.

Toronto physician Michael Bentley-Taylor, head of cardiology at the hospital who also is attending Graham, noted June 8: "Mr. Graham had a significant blood loss from his colon... which has left him in a weakened state...."

Graham's doctors added he is stabilized and "now just needs rehabilitation."

Video magazine showcases state mission projects

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The new video magazine series that highlights Mississippi Baptist ministries is growing in popularity among churches interested in knowing more about what Baptists are up to in their own state.

The second edition of *Vessels* from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is now in distribution after the premiere edition received many positive comments from local church leaders who showed the videotape in their churches.

Sandy Kirby, secretary of New Hope Church in Gulfport and a Volunteers in Missions area coordinator, used the VHS-format videotape during Wednesday evening time set aside for missions presentations.

"We need to know what's taking place in our own state. The Foreign and Home Mission Boards do a good job of keeping us informed on a larger scale, but we shouldn't overlook our own state," she said.

The videotape series is produced by the MBCB Church Information Support team, which is composed of communications and ministry specialists from several MBCB depart-

ments. David Michel, director of the MBCB Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department, is team leader and executive producer of *Vessels*.

Tim Nicholas, MBCB communications director, and Farrell Blankenship, director of the MBCB Broadcast Services Department, write and coordinate each videotape's segments. Blankenship also serves as producer and director.

"This videotape is an effort to showcase work Baptists are doing in cooperative efforts around the state. People have been asking for this for a long time, so we made it part of the MBCB's new comprehensive communications strategy," Michel said.

The videotape is divided into short, individual segments that can be viewed alone so precious meeting time is not eaten away by a lengthy presentation, Michel pointed out.

Included with the videotape is a viewer's guide that lists each segment by subject and

length, with suggestions for church leaders to use before and during the viewing. A postage-paid response card is also inserted

so crucial feedback from local church leaders can be obtained on each edition of the videotape.

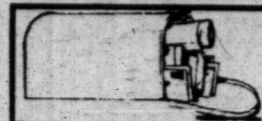
A total of 500 copies of the *Vessels* second edition have been distributed to key Baptist leaders and

organizations, such as directors of missions and Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) directors.

"The videotape offers an opportunity to learn what is being accomplished together in Mississippi. It's a way to enlist church members to support state missions and — most importantly — show us things we can pray for in our state," Michel said.

For more information on showing *Vessels*, contact a local director of missions, WMU director, or other key church leader, or MBCB Broadcast Services, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Vessels



Letters to the editor

Partner needs help

Editor:

The False Pass Baptist Chapel is looking for a long term interim pastor. False Pass is a remote community with a population of 80-100 people. It is located on Unimak Island on the Aleutian Island Chain.

The chapel has been in existence for nine months and averages 10-15 in attendance. It is the only church of any denomination in the community.

The interim pastor must have income from outside the community, as there are very few full time employment opportunities. Housing will be provided.

Interested persons may contact Michael R. Procter, director of missions, P.O. Box 110670, Anchorage, AK 99511; telephone (907) 344-1221; or FAX (907) 349-6182.

Endorse the plan

Editor:

Controversy has always been a part of our convention and is now. The most recent is the restructuring of our convention. This reorganization plan, "Covenant for a New Century," will streamline our convention and result in more effective use of our people and financial resources.

The opposition to this bold new plan comes primarily from WMU (Woman's Missionary Union). It seems that the WMU leadership has overreacted and is sending letters from the national and state levels with misleading information in them. Namely, that the "Covenant for a New Century" has taken the assignments given to the WMU and transferred them to other agencies.

The WMU is not assigned responsibilities by the Convention nor are they accountable for their actions to the Convention because they are an auxiliary and have chosen not to be any agency of the SBC.

According to the May 18, 1995, **The Baptist Record**, for years now the responsibilities for the mission offerings have been assigned to the mission boards. But in cooperation with the WMU the boards have paid WMU

Revival Dates

Mt. Carmel, Edinburgh: June 18-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James Messer, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Johnny Eubanks, music; Kim Wolverton, pastor.

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\$700,000 to promote our mission offerings. Therefore, all the stir over the committee reassigning the mission offerings is false. The WMU is not included in the covenant because the WMU is outside the assignment given to this committee.

Change is always difficult. Our president, Jim Henry, said this change is "crucial to our future." The Executive Committee overwhelmingly endorsed the plan (64-3). It is time for Southern Baptists to make some changes. Support the change.

Leroy J. Brewer Jr., pastor
New Zion Church
MBCB member
Crystal Springs

Reject the plan

Editor:

I congratulate you on your editorial entitled "Has the WMU been deprived?" As a missionary in Japan for 25 years, I have been well aware that it was WMU that kept us there on mission.

In Hawaii for 19 years, I observed my wife's work as state WMU president for seven years, and now her deep involvement in WMU work on associational and state levels in New Mexico. I am impressed with the dedicated and detailed work women do for the sake of missions. After over 100 years of dedicated ministry as an auxiliary, WMU does not need to come under the direct control of the male leadership of the SBC.

I would also suggest to pastors that more respect and appreciation be given to WMU in the local church. Too many pastors either despise, or just ignore WMU. Of course, local situations differ according to the personnel involved, but far too many pastors deprive themselves of solid support, not only in the area of missions, but in all the work of the church in this way.

Curtis Askew
Albuquerque, N.M.

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"Beginning with me..."

'95 Growing Churches Conferences set for July; geared to laity, pastors

The first of four two-day Growing Churches Conferences begins at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on July 6. Conferences will run July 6-8, July 10-12, July 20-22, and July 27-29. Theme for the conferences is "Beginning with me."

The series, sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), is targeted to train Brotherhood, Discipleship Training, Sunday School, church music, and Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) lay leaders, along with pastors and church staff members.

Each two-day conference will begin with 1:30 p.m. registration on the first day, include seven sessions, and run through the lunch hour of the third day.

Attendees may choose from workshop topics in each of the seven session time slots. Those workshop topics include: men/women on mission, ethical issues and answers, how to discover and use your spiritual gifts, youth outreach ideas, multicultural ministries, equipping deacons, language awareness, ABCs of church budgeting and promotion, and many others.

For the July 6-8 conference, Bill Causey, MBCB executive director-treasurer, will preach; Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, will lead the pastor's conference; and Mike Harland, music minister at Crossgates Church,

Brandon, will lead music.

Leaders for the July 10-12 conference will be: Stan Fornea, pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, preaching; John McCall of Clinton, former Mississippi College (MC) Bible professor, pastor's conference; and J.M. Wood, interim music minister at First Church, Brandon, music.

Leaders for the July 20-22 conference will be: Harold Bryson of the MC Religious Education Department, preaching; Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, pastor's conference; Paul Koonce, minister of music at Temple Church, Hattiesburg, music.

Leaders for the July 27-29 segment of the conferences will be: Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, preaching; Jimmy Porter, pastor of First Church, McComb, pastor's conference; and Stan Loyd, music minister at First, Pascagoula, music.

Maximum cost for any two-day conference (two people per room) is \$74.60 per person, including meals. For details or room reservations, contact Frank Simmons at Gulfshore. (601) 452-7261.

For more information on the 1995 Growing Churches Conferences or to register for the sessions, contact Larry Salter at the MBCB Sunday School Department. (601) 968-3800; or toll-free outside Jackson, (800) 748-1651.



Koonce



Causey



Harland



Bryson



Register



Futral



Fornea



Wood



Porter



Yancey



Loyd



McCall

CLASSIFIED ADS

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PIANO FOR SALE. No Money Down! Responsible person needed to take on a low monthly payment on a beautiful console piano. Call today 1-800-764-3334.

THREE GOOD BUSES that meet Department of Transportation requirements: 1979 International 1600 (56 passenger), 1981 GMC 6000 (65 passenger), 1982 International 1700 (65 passenger). For more information, call Woodlawn Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Ms., at (601) 636-5320.

SEE THE GREAT Passion Play in Eureka Springs, Ark. \$31. Pkg for Groups now includes the Best (\$13) Tickets, plus lodging & meals! Where One Call Does It ALL: Keller's Country Dorm Resort (501) 253-8418.

BAPTISTRY/BATHTUB REPAIR. Porcelain or fiberglass. No job too large or small. Statewide service. No mileage charge. K&K Bathtub Repair, 118 S. McCrary Rd., Columbus, MS 39702; 1-800-349-2882.

VENDING HERSHEY'S CANDY. Make big \$\$\$!!! Own a route and help Spina Bifida Assoc. of America. Call for complete information. 1-800-843-9051.

POSITION AVAILABLE: New Mexico Girls Ranch is seeking married Christian couples to serve as houseparents for girls ages 10-18 in a country setting. Compensation includes salary, room and board and benefits. Training is provided. If interested, call the Personnel Department at (505) 881-3363 or send resume to: Houseparent, P.O. Box 92511, Albuquerque, NM 87199-2511.

CHOIR ROBES & accessories, pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

PART-TIME MUSIC Director, Southside Baptist Church. Send resume to: 120 S. Monroe St., Yazoo City, MS 39194, or call (601) 746-4591 9 a.m.-noon M-F.

Nights, 746-1403. Answering machines at both numbers.

VANS FOR OUT-OF-STATE summer youth trips. New 6- to 15-passenger vans from \$49.95 per day with limited free mileage. Since 1965. Auto & Truck Rental. Jackson, Miss. (601) 948-3391.

CHOIR ROBES — CFI — pews, new & used. Baptistries & steeples. Authorized Dealer, MS. & ALA: 1-800-830-0583.

CHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH in Ackerman, Miss., is looking for a full-time minister of activities and youth. Please mail resumes to: Chester Baptist Church, Rt. 3 Box 110-A, Ackerman, MS 39735 or call (601) 387-4490 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. M-F.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, Brookhaven, Miss., is seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Send resume to: 2404 New Sight Drive, Brookhaven, MS 39601. Phone (601) 833-2433 or (601) 833-5786.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 15, 1995

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

ZIMBABWE PARTNERSHIP INFLUENCE CONTINUES

(The following letter was received by Tommy Purvis, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Belmont. It is printed here to share with our convention family some of the results of the Zimbabwe Partnership.)

Dear Tommy,

It is the Lord's power, mercy and great love that today you are holding my letter again. We serve a powerful, miracle-working God. All the church says, "Greetings and thanks to you and the Calvary Baptist Church in Belmont, Miss."

Your prayer has been heard. I tell you, the members God has provided, that you witnessed to, are dynamic — including those builders. Your Mississippi Calvary Baptist Church is our origin. God sent his messenger down to Africa to spread the message. He was a sower. Some seeds fell on rocks, some on thorns, and some on fertile soil. Murombedzi was the fertile soil.

On the second day of April 1995, Murombedzi Baptist Church was baptizing its members. We baptized 68 members excluding 18 students who were away for sports and a number of other members who went to a funeral service. We hope to baptize them in June. Mrs. Elizabeth Kaseka (the blind woman who led her three daughters-in-law to the Lord the same day she was saved) was not there, only because of her son's death. All her daughters-in-law were baptized. Among the baptized members are five very strong men with their whole families in the church. Pray to grow spiritually and numerically.

Pastor Chigede comes every Thursday — the

first and last of the month and some Sundays. We go to the schools to teach the children. That's where lies my task and challenge. When he is absent, I preach.

Due to the government's policies, we are not allowed to pray on bare ground. We have been given a site to build our church at the back of our growth point (the town of Murombedzi). We worked for a businessman in his fields as a church and acquired 40,000 bricks so far.



Barnabas Takawira Moyo, with wife Jenipher and family.

With my spirit, faith, and God's love I feel Him calling me to his ministry. He is my Bread of Life. I had never known I would be his in my everyday life. So, I know this is quite a challenging thing to do. Then there is seminary and courses like Bible Theology. Pray for me that God can provide me with the right courses and some dedicated men to sponsor my scholarship. I know God has everything for me and His people down here.

The partnership was to help Murombedzi know God. So God shall provide our needs to build the church. I would be very much glad/happy if you can possibly share the above with your family.

To end I am also feeling out of words. We are experiencing heavy droughts here. Also, there was an outbreak of army worms. The surviving crops were eaten. "And they overcame him by the word of their testimony, the blood of the Lamb ... and they did not love their lives even to death." (Rev. 12:11). The Lord be with you.

Your Fellow Servant,
Barnabas Takawira Moyo

If you are interested in volunteering to help our newest partners, Alaska and Honduras, contact Bill Hardy, Partnership Missions Department, at 1-800-748-1651, or locally, 968-3800.

Church Prayer Ministry Inventory

No one can import spiritual revival to your church. It comes from a well used communication system with the Father. Just in case you've been wondering what a church can do to improve its prayer involvement, here is a list. The list is not complete, of course. Some churches, for instance, have a group which prays in a separate room during each worship service. Perhaps you have some prayer projects which you've tried. Let us know at **HouseTops**.

PRAYER ACTIVITY/EMPHASIS

- ☐ Associational Prayer Emphasis Week
- ☐ Family Worship
- ☐ Intercessory Prayer Ministry
- ☐ Midweek prayer service
- ☐ Missionary Moments prayer features
- ☐ Prayer breakfasts, brunches or luncheons
- ☐ Prayer chain
- ☐ Prayer for an unreached people group
- ☐ Prayer groups
- ☐ Prayer leaders in adult SS classes
- ☐ Prayer retreats
- ☐ Prayer room
- ☐ Prayer seminars
- ☐ Prayer study group
- ☐ Season of Prayer for State Missions
- ☐ Solemn Assembly
- ☐ Times of prayer and fasting
- ☐ Use of prayer and devotional guides
- ☐ Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions
- ☐ Week of Prayer for Home Missions
- ☐ Other suggested projects:



Remember to send in your report by August 14!

(Includes projects from August 1994-August 1995)

Each year our department is responsible for reporting to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board the **number of people in Mississippi who were involved in volunteer missions, where they went, etc.** Please help us by reporting your church and/or association involvement. Complete and return to us one of the forms below for **each** project in which your people participated (individuals, youth, music, adults, etc).

VOLUNTEER MISSION REPORT

☐ Church Project ☐ Association Project ☐ Individual Project

Your Church/Association _____

Project Coordinator _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ Zip _____

Project Information

TYPE OF PROJECT: ☐ Community ☐ In-State ☐ U.S. ☐ Foreign

Project Location (State or Country) _____

No. People in Your Group _____ Dates _____

TYPE OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED:

☐ Construction ☐ V.B.S. ☐ Survey

☐ Evangelism ☐ Bible Clubs ☐ Other

☐ Music

☐ Medical/Dental

MAIL TO: VOLUNTEER MISSION REPORT
Brotherhood Department
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

**If you are interested in special statewide volunteer opportunities, contact
Jim Didlake, consultant for Brotherhood/Disaster Relief at
1-800-748-1651, or locally, 968-3800.**

PLANNING FOR THE NEW CHURCH YEAR

Now is the time for pastors and key leaders in our churches to begin the planning process for the new church year. The 1995-96 Church Design Handbook will aid you in you planning. Copies of the Handbook may be ordered from the Ministry Office at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This step-by-step process is designed to aid pastors and key leaders in planning for the new church year.

STEPS IN THE CHURCH PLANNING PROCESS

MISSION STATEMENT

PRIORITY CONCERNS

GOALS

ACTION PLANS

CORRELATED CALENDAR

UNIFIED BUDGET

*You and Your Youth Group are invited to
the HeartSong '95 Presentation of
Dennis and Nan Allen's youth musical*



*at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass
Christian • 6:15 p.m. • Friday, June 30*

*Due to limited seating, please let the Church Music
Department know how many from your church will
be attending.*

1-800-748-1651, or in Jackson, 968-3800

HOUSE TOPS

Pray this day.....June 16 — July 15, 1995



PRAYER MINISTRY OFFICE

P. O. BOX 530
JACKSON, MS 39205-0530
PHONE 968-3800, EXT. 3904



MISSISSIPPI PRAYERLINE 1-800-787-PRAY

The Southern Baptist Convention meets in Atlanta this month . . . let us pray every day for this meeting . . . let's pray also for the Annual WMU Meeting just prior to the Convention, along with all the other meetings of specialized groups which meet prior to and during the week . . .

for a request from John and Kathy Vaughn, missionaries in Brazil, that the Second Baptist Church of Caxias do Sul, organized only a year ago, may find a larger place to rent - they have outgrown their present space

for another request from the Vaughns, that the new Mission Congregation in the city of Barracao, begun by a layman, will be able to complete the "first-unit" in their building program

MK birthday:
Ross Kyzar 6-18-83
(grandson of the Guy
Hendersons)
Apartado 4035-1000
San Jose, Costa Rica
Parents: Russell &
Melinda
Music Promotion

for those who see the Jesus
film which has been pro-
duced in the Miskito lan-
guage and taken to the
people in the remote
Miskito Coast in Honduras

MK birthday:
Miss Donnis Green
6-20-81
Bolanos 141
1407 Buenos Aires,
Argentina
Parents: Al & Emily
General Evangelism

for families you know
whose lives have been
damaged by the gaming
industry

for families you know
whose lives are touched by
critical illness

MK birthday:
Michael Panter 6-23-77
Krauskopffallee 39
63588 W1-Schlangenbad-
Georgenborn
Germany
Parents: Danny &
Elizabeth
Associate to the Area
Coordinator

for churches and pastors
who need healing of spir-
its with each other

MK birthday:
Jeremy Cox 6-25-74
Mississippi College
P.O. Box 4497
Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: Larry and Cheryl
CSI Representatives

MK birthday:
Timothy Boudreaux 6-26-90
60 Mt. Pleasant
St. Philip
Barbados, West Indies
Parents: Charles & Netta
Social Ministry

for our Home Mission
Board and our Foreign
Mission Board

MK birthday:
Allison Cox 6-28-82
Waldeckstr. 57-1
79400 Kandem, Germany
Parents: Larry and Cheryl
CSI Representatives

for new Christians you
know

MK birthday:
Kyle Martin 6-30-82
Casilla 2568
Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Parents: Tom & Cynthia
General Evangelism

for the United States as we
approach celebration of
the 4th of July

MK birthday:
Molly Sills 6-25-86
Casilla 17-03-533
Quito, Ecuador
Parents: Michael & Mary
Theological Education

MK birthday:
Lawrence Braswell 6-26-89
(Grandson of Bill Sellers)
Box 473
Boyle, MS 38606
Parents: Larry & Alicia
General Evangelism in
Brazil after July

MK birthday:
Charissa Foreberry 6-28-89
P.O. Box 223
Lobatse, Botswana
Parents: Robert &
Margaret
General Evangelism

for men and women in the
armed forces of our coun-
try

for requests from the
Hearns, missionaries in
Lome Togo: direction in
beginning conversational
English classes, effective-
ness in using Bible
Correspondence School
materials, sports evange-
lism opportunities for Jim,
new believers, MK Retreat,
relationships in all the
work

for the children in your
family circles who face
temptations of drugs

MK birthday:
Alaina Baker 7-2-83
Mission Baptiste
Meridionale
01 BP 512
Bouake, Ivory Coast
Parents: Kenneth & Lynn
Dentistry

for prison ministries
around our state

MK birthday:
Anne McNamee 7-4-79
Apartado 17-21-0162
Quito, Ecuador
Parents: Robert & Dianne
Music Promotion

for the children in your
family circles who face
temptations of drugs

for the children in your
family circles who face
temptations of drugs

for your church to be effec-
tive in praying

MK birthday:
Sarah E. Metts 7-2-83
Lynx/Sd Dr.
P.O. Box 5600
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310
Parents: Joe & Teri
General Evangelism
Dominican Republic

for all the churches which
will benefit as the leader-
ship uses the knowledge
they receive at Gulfshore

MK birthday:
Andrea Hendricks 7-11-87
Apartado 1010-7050
Cartago, Costa Rica
Parents: Larry & Mary
General Evangelism

for all the preparations
being made for Youth
Night at the Coliseum on
July 25

MK birthday:
Rachel Graves 7-13-85
Casilla 1417
Concepcion, Chile
Parents: Edgar & Marilyn
General Evangelism

MK birthday:
Melody McNamee 7-14-74
William Carey College
P. O. Box 1248
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Parents: Robert & Dianne
Music Promotion

for someone outside your
family who has meant a lot
to you - and then express
appreciation to that person

for all the conferences for
church leadership at
Gulfshore this summer

for all the churches which
will benefit as the leader-
ship uses the knowledge
they receive at Gulfshore

MK birthday:
Andrea Hendricks 7-11-87
Apartado 1010-7050
Cartago, Costa Rica
Parents: Larry & Mary
General Evangelism

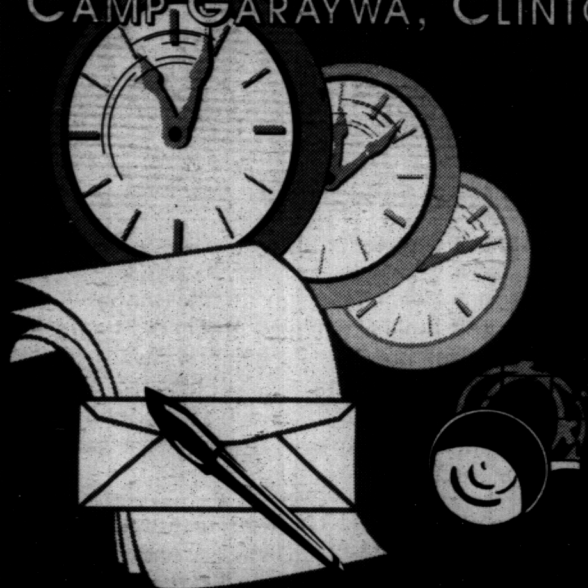
for all the preparations
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Night at the Coliseum on
July 25

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Music Promotion

for someone outside your
family who has meant a lot
to you - and then express
appreciation to that person

1995 BASIC AND ADVANCED CERTIFICATION SEMINARS CAMP GARAYWA, CLINTON



BASIC —
AUGUST 22-24, 1995
JOELA TAYLOR, certified church secretary instructor of the Sunday School Board, and special worker for the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, Topeka, Kans.

ADVANCED —
AUGUST 22-24, 1995
DONNA GANDY, consultant in the pastor/staff leadership department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, and coordinator for the basic and advanced secretaries certification program.



Register by July 28, 1995. There will be a \$5.00 late fee after July 28.

WHAT IS IT?

It is a program of study provided by the Sunday School Board designed to enhance the ministry effectiveness of the church-related secretary.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

BASIC —

- Who Southern Baptists are* — beliefs, heritage, purpose, organization
- The unique ministry role of the church-related secretary*
- The personal issues that impact her work:* self-awareness, interpersonal communication, personal goals, and spiritual growth
- How to take charge of the paperwork* — from membership rolls to filing systems
- Office communication skills*, including correspondence, telephone, and promotion
- The work flow in the office with time-saving shortcuts*

ADVANCED — (two modules offered this year)

Church Financial Management — Identify essential internal control practices. Learn to establish sound policies and procedures. Polish your business math skills. Review the church's tax reporting requirements. Practice writing budget proposals and justifications. Learn about updates on newest tax laws and contribution record requirements.

Time Management — Learn to identify your unique time management patterns. Discover the importance of planning for productivity. Eliminate parasites that gobble up your hours. Defeat procrastination habits. Enlist time management partners. Examine ways to manage your personal time.

WHERE WILL I STAY?

You will stay at beautiful Camp Garaywa in Clinton. There are 49 beds with INSIDE BATH FACILITIES available on a first registered, first assigned basis! Make your plans early to be assigned to one of these spaces.

WHAT IF I HAVE A LONG DISTANCE TO TRAVEL?

Come on Monday. Arrangements have been made for accommodations (at an additional cost) on Monday evening and breakfast on Tuesday morning. No meal will be served on Monday evening.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

BASIC —

Conference fee: \$80 (\$75 for NASBS members) This will cover the cost of the study guide, tote bag, and all materials.

Accommodations fee: \$61.50 This will cover the cost of 2 nights lodging and 8 meals. All linens are furnished.

ADVANCED —

Conference fee: \$27.50 per skillshop (\$25.00 for NASBS members)

Accommodations fee: \$57.00 for both skillshops This will cover the cost of 2 nights lodging and 7 meals. If you will attend only one skillshop adjustments will be made.

Monday evening accommodations and breakfast on Tuesday morning will be an additional cost of \$16.50.

WHAT IF I HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

Contact Anne Martin, 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800, extension 3905.

Hurry, Hurry, Hurry!!!

Only 38,000 seats left for YOUTH NIGHT • Mississippi Memorial Stadium, Jackson • July 28, 1995 • 7 p.m.
For more details call Matt Buckles, chairman of Youth Night Committee, at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 3907.

HOUSE TOPS

Mississippians graduate from Southern Seminary

Five Mississippians were among the 200 graduates who received degrees during May 19 commencement exercises at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. The graduates include:

— James M. Meaders of Hickory; doctor of musical arts.



Meaders

— Martin Hayden of Summit; doctor of ministry.

— Linda S. Fox of Canton; master of divinity in Christian education.

— David P. Everett of Amory; master of church music.

— Donald N. Lee of Cleveland; master of social work.



Hayden

Just for the Record

Calvary Church, Durant, will feature We're Redeemed from Winona in a gospel singing on June 17 at 7 p.m.

Applications for the William Carey College baseball summer camps can be obtained by contacting the college's Athletic Department at (601) 582-6110 or the office of external relations at 582-6192. The annual camp features individualized instruction and team play for youngsters ages 7-12 on June 12-16 and June 26-30. The camp for ages 13-17 will be conducted on June 19-23. Call (601) 582-6192 to register or write Coach Bobby Halford, William Carey College, 498 Tuscan

Avenue Box 182, Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5499. Late registration will be held the first day of class.

Southside Church, Aberdeen, has begun a Wednesday morning prayer meeting/Bible study at 10 a.m. Kenneth E. Walters is pastor. Call 369-2606 for more information.

Correction

In a letter to the editor published in *The Baptist Record* (June 8), Andy Brasher of Como referred to a statement made by the apostle John in 2 John 1:29. The reference should have been 2 John 1:13.

Thursday, June 15, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Names in the News

Robert Lindsey, a retired missionary who began work in Jerusalem three years before modern Israel was formed, died May 31 in Tulsa, Okla. He was 77. A scholar fluent in Greek and Hebrew, Lindsey was a key leader among Israel's Messianic Jewish community. He helped Jews become believers in Jesus Christ while also doing research to recover the Jewish roots of the Gospels. Lindsey was a friend to both Jew and Arab and gained national notoriety during his 43-year missionary career with his wife Margaret.

SNELLVILLE, Ga. (BP) — James Merritt, president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, has announced he will nominate Larry Wynn as first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the SBC annual meeting June 20-22 in Atlanta. Wynn, pastor of Hebron Church, Dacula, Ga., since 1978, has been president of the Georgia Convention and vice president of the SBC Pastors' Conference, as well as serving in numerous other committees and associational positions.

NASHVILLE — Louise Medling, retired missionary to Japan, died May 25 in Nashville. She was 80. Medling, the former Louise Gulley from Jefferson City, Tenn., and her husband William were appointed to Japan by the Foreign Mission Board in 1946. She is survived by her husband; three sons, Paul Medling of Jamaica Plain, Mass., Clifford Medling of Lilburn, Ga., and William R. Medling Jr. of Nashville.

WACO, Texas (BP) — Baylor University President Emeritus Abner V. McCall, who grew up in a Fort Worth orphanage and became one of the most influential figures in Texas' academic, religious and political life, died June 11 at his home in Waco, Texas. McCall, 80, served as president of Baylor University from 1961-81. McCall



In Honors Day ceremony at William Carey College, awards were given for service in the Baptist Student Union. Larry Kennedy, dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies, presented Laura Burnett of Gautier (left) the BSU President's Award, and Alicia Lowery of Baton Rouge, La. (right), the Outstanding BSU Councilman Award. Lowery is a sophomore business administration major. Burnett is a senior music education major.

was president of the General Convention of Texas in 1964-65, and he was named Texas Baptist Elder Statesman in 1985. The Southern Baptist Convention elected McCall first vice president in 1979. He was defeated, however, one year later when he was nominated for SBC president as standard-bearer for the moderate cause, challenging incumbent Bailey Smith for a traditional second one-year term. For 45 years, McCall taught Sunday School at Waco's First Church, where he was a former chairman of deacons.

Providing adequate benefits for all

Two sides of the coin



Annuity Board Sunday
June 25, 1995
Paul W. Powell, President

Preparation for those still working.

The Church Annuity Plan and insurance programs help make all the tomorrows secure and comfortable. Are your pastor and all staff members covered?

Relief when it's too late.

1. The Cooperative Program provides \$1 million for the most desperate cases.
2. Adopt An Annuitant provides \$50 a month to make life more pleasant for 1,600 others.

Call or write for more information.



ANNUITY BOARD OF THE
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
2401 Cedar Springs Rd. • P.O. Box 2190 • Dallas, Texas 75221-2190
1-800-262-0511
Serving Those Who Serve the Lord

Uniform Justice corrupted



By Greg Potts
1 Kings 21

A large landowner in Puritan New England continued to buy parcel after parcel of land. Chided by his friend for owning so much land, he was asked, "How much land do you intend to buy?" He answered: "Just the land that is adjacent to mine!" With an ever widening circle, the man's desire for land became the dominating force in his life.

Greed is rampant in our society. It seems that everyone is attempting to keep up with the Joneses and, just about time they catch up, the Joneses refinance and take off again! Greed can lead to the corruption of justice.

A man named Naboth of Jezreel had a vineyard that was located beside the palace of Ahab, king of Samaria. Ahab wanted the piece of land to plant a vegetable garden. He confronted Naboth with an offer to purchase the land. Naboth would not budge. He had inherited the land from his family and did not want to sell it. Instead of being content with what he had, Ahab was upset because Naboth would not sell him this piece of land. He went into his home, lay down, and would not eat.

After some time, his wife Jezebel learned what had happened and devised a scheme to have Naboth killed. After Naboth's death, Ahab took possession of the property. God spoke to Elijah about this and instructed him to confront Ahab about his wickedness. He informed Ahab that just as the dogs had licked up the blood of Naboth, so they would do with him. When Ahab heard of this coming judgment on him, he repented and put on sackcloth and fasted. God then spoke to Elijah informing him that Ahab had humbled himself before God. God said he would not cause the evil to fall upon Ahab but, instead, would bring it upon his son's house.

The greed of Ahab (vv. 1-2). Ahab was king and should have had everything he wanted, but he wanted more. Is that not a picture of our times?

The apostle Paul said, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am" (Phil. 4:11). Jesus taught, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt. 6:33).

A ship was driven off course by a storm and wrecked on a desolate island. The passengers salvaged enough food from the boat to last them several months. They were also able to bring to shore several sacks of seed. They began to cultivate the land to plant the seeds when they discovered some pieces of golden ore. Instead of planting, they began to look for gold. Their supply of gold increased as their supply of food diminished. When they finally ran out of food, it was too late to plant the seeds. So the passengers died. This is a parable of life for many in today's world. The glitter of the world's gold catches their eye and distracts them from the service of God.

The character of Naboth (v. 3). Naboth stands as an example for us today. He was a man of great character. It is said often that money talks. Well, it didn't with Naboth. He refused the king's offer. There are some things more important than money.

There is a popular country song that says, "You've got to stand for something or you'll fall for anything." What do you stand for? Naboth was a man of great character.

The scheme of Jezebel (vv. 5-16). Unfortunately, just because we do the right thing doesn't always mean we will not endure criticism. Because Naboth refused to sell his land, Jezebel devised a scheme to kill him so Ahab could own the land. Naboth lost his life because he refused to compromise.

Many of you have endured verbal criticism and have been the object of jokes because of your Christian faith. Just because you do the right thing does not mean you will not suffer. Yet, we are promised God will not forsake us.

The punishment of Ahab (vv. 17-24). Ahab did not get off without facing punishment. God spoke to Elijah, who confronted Ahab and informed him that he would die because of what he had done. Wickedness never goes unpunished. It may not happen immediately, but eventually it will be punished.

The apostle Paul said: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book Facing the cross



By Sylvia Fleming
Mark 14

Jesus was at Bethany, one of his favorite places during his earthly ministry. He was visiting in the home of Simon, the former leper, who also lived in Bethany as did his friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. While visiting there, a woman came to anoint Jesus with a very expensive ointment.

Though it is controversial about the woman who anointed Jesus, the importance is not who she was, but why she gave so freely of her possessions. When she poured the ointment on Jesus' head, there was much grumbling. "Why did she not save that, sell it, and give the money to the poor?"

Jesus was very adamant that people who give to him freely were not to be criticized. He was to receive the very best that one had. He also said: even though one is to share with the poor, the poor will always be around. If one is to do the work of the Lord, the time is limited in which that work may be accomplished. She did not wait until Jesus was buried to give to him. That so often happens in today's society. One may have great needs — emotional, physical, or spiritual — and be totally ignored by church, family, and/or neighbors; however, that person can die and those same people will flock to show their respects, send flowers, bring food, give words of kindness. That is great support to the survivors, but the one who may have really needed the thoughtfulness will never know.

Moving ahead to the Passover Supper, Jesus identified one of his 12 as one who would betray him. One by one, they began to ask, "Is it I?" (v. 19). He then explained to them that he must die as the Old Testament had prophesied.

In Genesis Adam's fall brought a curse on all creation. The title to the world was lost to Satan. At that time, God promised Satan that there would always be strife between him and the seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15). That seed is Jesus. Since the fall of Adam, Satan has done all he possibly could to thwart God's will and discredit his Word.

Satan knows that the title to this world will not be his for eternity — that one day Jesus, the Redeemer, will save creature and creation from the power of Satan. However, if Satan can simply change the means by which he is to lose the title, he will have defeated God. In Matthew 4:8, Satan showed Jesus the world and told Jesus that if he would just fall down and worship him, he (Satan) would give Jesus "... the kingdoms of the world..." and all their glory. Had Jesus accepted Satan's way, he would have the title of the earth and not have to go to the cross to finish his future work. Satan could have made a lie out of the entire Word of God.

Then, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus suffered agony so great that he was sweating "... great drops of blood" (Luke 22:44). Jesus knew that if that hour/cup did not pass from him, then he would never make it to the cross to fulfill the prophecies. Jesus must get to the cross; thus, he prayed that the hour pass from him. He also prayed that the cup pass from him.

The Father did not force Jesus to lay down his life; Jesus was not attempting to renege on a contract. He said, "... I lay down my life for the sheep. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down myself. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it again" (John 10:15, 18). Jesus only prayed that his ministry would be sustained long enough to reach the cross to fulfill the promised Word.

After the betrayal and arrest, Jesus was brought before the high priest and the Sanhedrin. The high priest questioned Jesus regarding the charges against him, but Jesus remained as a silent lamb. Then the high priest asked, "Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

Jesus' response was: "I am" (Mark 14:61, 62).

Then he went on to tell the high priest that one day they would see him sitting at the right hand of the Father and also see him when one day he will return at his second coming. Because of the blindness of the high priest, he agreed with the charge of blasphemy against Jesus and condemned him to death. Thus, the Sanhedrin made preparation to bring Jesus before Pilate, and Jesus, the Savior of man, went voluntarily.

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Life and Work Witnessing in trouble



By Michael Johnson
Acts 27, 28

Most everyone has heard the old adage that "there aren't any atheists in foxholes" which basically implies that when dealing with life and death matters most people are open to the possibility of turning to God. This was certainly true in the situation in which Paul found himself on his way to Rome.

It had been several years since the riot at the temple (Acts 21) and Paul remained imprisoned in Caesarea. There had been a change in administrations and the new governor, Festus, determined that Paul should be sent back to Jerusalem so the Jews could settle this dispute. Paul of course knew that there was no chance of having a fair hearing there, so he exercised his right as a Roman citizen and appealed his case to Caesar (Acts 25). Consequently, we find Paul on a ship bound for Rome.

Trouble (27:20). For whatever reason, the trip was poorly planned. In those days, people seldom sailed the Aegean after September and this voyage was underway in early October (27:9). Paul had urged those in charge not to set sail but his advice was rebuffed (27:10-12).

The fierce wind, a northeaster called the Euroclydon, hit with a vengeance and blew the ship off course. Acts 27:20 succinctly describes the situation found on the ship — there was no hope. It is difficult to imagine such a situation, but from time to time I come across people who have lost all hope. It is depressing, but it is also an opportunity to share the greatest hope of all!

Comfort (27:22-25). In the midst of this hopelessness, we observe a stunning transformation: the captor took command. It is in Paul we see confidence and calmness. It is the one in chains who offered encouragement and issued orders. The source of Paul's courage came only from his personal relationship with God. God gave Paul a word of assurance and Paul shared those words with the ship's company. Paul became a leader of men only because he himself was led by God.

Cannot the same be said about our own Christian witness? If we have a personal relationship with the One who is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present, would we not be able to offer words of comfort and direction to those in need?

Advice (27:30-31). Without stars or sun, there was no way to determine their position; the ship was adrift across the sea. In the darkness the sailors heard the breakers crashing on a nearby shore, so a variety of actions were taken to slow down the drift of the ship, least it succumb to the rocks.

Paul had every confidence that God would deliver them as promised. Yet Paul saw to it that everything humanly possible was done to help their situation. Apparently some doubted Paul's advice and sought to escape the ship using a lifeboat. Again Paul assumed command and instructed the centurion to stop them for their own safety.

Encouragement (27:33-36). For two weeks the travelers had been unable to eat. Paul determined that time needed to be taken for nourishment and to offer a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for their deliverance. Note that deliverance had not yet come, but it was through this action that others on board were also encouraged and fortified for what lay ahead.

Christians are not immune to trouble. Troubles can bring pain, suffering, inconvenience, and hardship. Trouble can also bring opportunity. James 1:2 instructs us to approach troubles with joy! At first blush it is odd advice until we understand that it is through the refiner's fire that our faith can be matured and made strong.

We should also realize that our lives are open books to those around us. The way we deal with trouble can provide a tremendous way of showing others the reality of our faith. Just as Paul provided comfort, advice, and encouragement to those around him, we have the opportunity of doing the same this week.

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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**MARCH 1, 1995-
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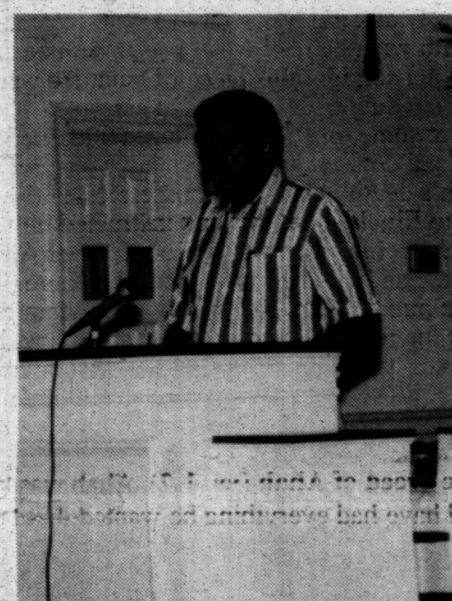
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A Dedication Service
for newly completed
"O'Neal Cottage" was
held Saturday, May 13 at
Fair River Baptist Church,
Brookhaven. The new
addition to The Baptist
Children's Village Dickerson
Place Campus,
Brookhaven is named for
Mr. & Mrs. Hudson O'Neal
and is dedicated in their
memory by their children
and grandchildren, **Circuit
Judge & Mrs. Keith (Bar-
bara) Starrett, Josh, Leah Claire, and Whit** (pictured at
top).



Following lunch and service at Fair River, guests
enjoyed open house and a tour of the newly occupied
O'Neal Cottage. Child Care Workers in O'Neal Cottage
are Bobby and Edna Warren and Faye Branning.

The beautiful cottage which houses 10 boys was built
with much donated materials and 100% volunteer labor,
coordinated by **Joe Brewer** (above, right). Resources for
purchased materials were provided by the Starretts. Such
an endeavor would not have been possible without the
vision and generosity of these and other men and women
in surrounding communities.

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(to be continued)



SHOWER OF PRAISE — An evening of cold mist and rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm of about 80,000 South Korean students who dedicated themselves to missions May 20 at Student Mission 2000. The four-hour youth rally at the Seoul, South Korea, Olympic Main Stadium featured a parade of the world's flags and a videotaped address by South Korean President Kim Young-Sam. Delegates from the Global Consultation on World Evangelization (GCOWE '95), which met May 17-25 in Seoul, attended the missions dedication. (BP photo by Don Martin)

No rain checks needed for Korean students

SEOUL, South Korea (BP) — Rain mixed with tears on the cheeks of thousands of South Korean students who dedicated themselves to missions May 20 in the Seoul Olympic Main Stadium.

More than 80,000 Korean students signed mission declarations at the "Student Mission 2000" meeting held in conjunction with Global Consultation on World Evangelization (GCOWE '95).

The students marched into the Olympic stadium in a cold, misting rain to commit themselves to missions. Many entered the stadium in a colorful parade with students carrying flags from every nation and singing: "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations."

Later, raising their right hands, the Korean students promised before the international witnesses to work for church renewal, to pray for and work for Korea's unification, and to dedicate themselves to world evangelization.

"I made a commitment to long-term missions," He Jung Kim, 20, said. "I can't explain what God has said to me, but this evening confirmed that God is

calling me. This was the biggest event in my life."

Byung Hoon Oh, 26, a student at Han Yang University, hopes to follow through with this commitment in China. "I had thought about doing something for God through missions. Tonight, I finally made that commitment. As a Korean, I have seen people come here to tell us about Christ. It's time now for us to go as God gives us a mission. Missionaries came here to give away the gospel. It is now time to pay for that debt of service."

The evening program lasted nearly four hours. Despite the late hour, cold mist and sporadic rain, thousands of students lingered to pray.

Well after most of the stadium lights were turned off, many students bowed to pray in groups on the stadium track. Some stood while others knelt on the wet ground, soaking their pants and dresses as they prayed on their knees for more than an hour.

In the stands, many of the delegates stayed to pray and watch a new generation of missionaries worship God.

Evangelicals meet in Seoul, thousands commit to missions

By Don Martin

SEOUL, South Korea (BP) — More than 4,000 Christians concluded a nine-day world conference in Seoul, South Korea, with a global commitment to taking the gospel to the world's least evangelized people.

Global Consultation on World Evangelization (GCOWE '95), brought together church leaders, Christian lay leaders and mission personnel from 186 countries. They met to explore ways of increasing the pace of world evangelization during the last five years of the century.

The meetings, May 17-25, included representatives from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board.

"The full job of world evangelization is beyond any one group or denomination," said Avery Willis, FMB senior vice president of overseas operations. "This conference helps make it possible to discover what we can do together."

Conference organizers used the theme of "A church for every people and the gospel for every person by AD 2000" to stress a need for unity and partnerships in the evangelical world.

Organizers created the AD2000 and Beyond Movement, an organization based in Colorado Springs,

Colo., out of a felt need for more coordination of outreach ministries after Lausanne II in 1989, explained Thomas Wang, chairman of AD2000. Lausanne II in Manila, Philippines, called evangelicals to unity in missions.

"We have a five-year plan," Wang said. "By the grace of God, we hope to see that the Great Commission will be fulfilled by the year 2000."

The Foreign Mission Board's CSI (Cooperative Service International) focuses exclusively on the unreached people of World A. In 1994, CSI started 144 new churches in World A — that part of the world where people have never had a chance to hear the Christian gospel.

At the conference's first plenary session, missions strategist Patrick Johnstone expressed his hopes for reaching World A. Johnstone's book, *Operation World*, has become a key resource in missions planning.

"As I prepared *Operation World*, one thing amazed me — the astonishing growth and expansion of the gospel over the past two centuries," said Johnstone, who is from the United Kingdom. "When William Carey left for India 200 years ago, evangelical Christianity had only penetrated a handful of

the then possibly 8,000 to 9,000 people (groups) outside Europe and eastern North America."

Of the 12,000 people (groups) in 237 countries, more than 9,000 now have the resources to reach their own people, Johnstone estimated. "What a change," he said. "In round figures, 3,000 non-Christian peoples still need cross-cultural, pioneer, church-planting ministries."

"There is a major paradigm shift to full ownership in the cause of advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ worldwide," said AD2000's international director Luis Bush. The evidence of that shift "comes from the bottom-line commitment of the people who are here. Two-thirds of (them) are from the developing world."

"This is the first time in all of human history that missiologists like myself can say that we now have light at the end of the Great Commission tunnel," said C. Peter Wagner, head of AD2000's United Prayer Track. "That doesn't mean everyone in the world will be saved, but... Everyone... will in their lifetime have a reasonable opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Martin writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

Push to 2000 requires reconciliation first

By Dan Wooding

They came to Korea to plan the "final push" to evangelize the world by the year 2000, but first they had to deal with a serious problem — long-standing animosity between many of their different countries. So, they dealt with it in an extraordinary way.

The healing of relationships between former enemies was a highlight of the Global Consultation on World Evangelization (GCOWE '95), held in Seoul, May 17-25. Many of the 4,000 leaders there recognized they could not hope to evangelize the world without first being reconciled with each other.

Possibly the most extraordinary event of this kind took place in the sanctuary on top of "Prayer Mountain" in Kwang Jo, a few miles outside Seoul. Conducted by a Japanese evangelist, it was part of a strat-

egy called Identification Repentance and is believed by those involved to be a key in breaking evil influences and strongholds of conflict.

Paul Ariga had heard that Isaac and Peter Lee — who run Cornerstone Ministries, an outreach to North Korea — had lost their grandfather after being badly treated by the Japanese who occupied the Korean peninsula for some 36 years.

Kneeling before Isaac Lee, with his brother Peter close by, along with other Koreans, Ariga cried out, "I repent before each of you, but especially Brother Lee, whose grandfather was killed by the Japanese. I really repent before him and ask for reconciliation through the blood of Jesus that was shed on that cross."

With tears pouring down his

cheeks, he then called people from the audience whose country was sinned against by Japan and also knelt before them and apologized to them for what Japan had done to their people.

It was appropriate that South Korea hosted this meeting. With 25% of its 45 million people Christian after barely a century of Christian presence, the Korean church has become one of the most vigorous and mature churches in the world.

Wooding, of southern California, is a journalist and founder of ASSIST (Aid to Special Saints in Strategic Times).

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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NAH LDG QTOH ETH KQNALGH N ENOHGA
GNCLMNOH ZA GHGA; NAH LDGOG DG KVL
LDG YNA MDTY DG DNH PTOYGH.

EGAGCZC LMT: GZEDL

This week's clue: H equals D.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalms Twenty-Nine: Two.

Baptist Record

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